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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08108 081605Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 A-01 MMO-01 SIG-03 SS-15
/034 W
----------017258 081608Z /43
R 081559Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7891

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO
SUBJECT: EXPANDED ROLE OF GAO AND GAO VISITS TO SELECTED
- POSTS

REF: STATE 207030

1. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS EMBASSY VIENNA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THREE GAO TEAM VISITS, ALL OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1977 (MAY, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER). THE LENGTHS OF STAY VARIED FROM ONE TO FIVE DAYS. (IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT, ON THE AVERAGE, A THREE-DAY STAY SHOULD PROVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO GET FROM SITE TO SITE IN A CITY LIKE VIENNA.) THE TEAMS IN QUESTION WERE COMPOSED OF 2-3 PERSONS.

2. A STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF A GAO VISIT OR, BETTER STILL, AN ADVANCE QUESTIONNAIRE IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND SHOULD BE A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT OF ALL GAO VISITS. SUCH PRIOR INFORMATION ENABLES THE EMBASSY TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF A VISIT AND ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE HOST-COUNTRY OFFICIALS.

3. UP TO NOW THE POST'S RESOURCES HAVE NOT BEEN OVERTAXED
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BY GAO VISITS. (HOWEVER, ONE TEAM WAS ASKED TO DELAY ITS VISIT DUE TO THE COINCIDENT ARRIVAL OF A HIGH-LEVEL VIP DELEGATION -- WHICH IT DID.) IT SHOULD BE NOTED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THAT VIENNA IS FAST BECOMING A MAJOR CONFERENCE CITY, AND HOTEL SPACE CAN BE AT A PREMIUM WITH-OUT LONG LEAD TIME. FURTHERMORE, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH EMBASSY RESOURCES COULD

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INDEED BECOME STRAINED, E.G., IF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS WERE
TO OVERLAP. BORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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From: VIENNA
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